cover the remaining No Source problem villages by 31.3.93. The Central Government has released a special assistance of Rs. 135. 81 crores to 8 States so far.

[*English*]

Zero Unit of NLC

2408. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the status of 'Zero Unit' of Neyveli Lignite Corporation;

(b) the time by which power is proposed to be generated there; and

(c) the total estimated cost thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). Government sanctioned in March, 1989 addition of 1 X 210 MW to TPS II, know as zero Unit, at an estimated cost of Rs. 397.26 crores. presently, the possibilities for having this project implemented through the private sector's participation are under examination. meantime, the cost of the project has escalated and is now estimated around Rs. 712 crores (Approx.) at 12/91 base. The project has a gestation period of 48 months from the date of revised sanction.

[*Translation*]

Handing over of coal industry of private sector

2409. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to hand over the coal industry to the private sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the percentage of success expected in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL(SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b). There is at present no proposal to hand over the Coal Industry to the Private Sector

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Development of Ukni Open Cast Mining Coalfields

2410. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have approved development of Ukni Open Cast mining under Western Coalfields' at an estimated cost of Rs. 11.37 crores;

(b) if so, the estimated annual production form Ukni;

(c) the details of the other open cast mines being considered for development in the near future, and

(d) the total number of opencast mines in western coalfields alongwith the details of the annual production of each?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF (SHRI S.B NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b). Ukni DCP of WCL (capacity 1.10 mty). has been sanctioned by the Government in January, 1992 at an estimated capital cost of Rs. 100.37 Crores.

(c) and (d). Presently two projects viz Gondegaon OC and Mugoli OC of-WCL are in advance stages of appraisal by the Government. These two projects have also been identified for development in the near future. During the year 1990-91, WCL had 19 opencast producing mines which produced 13.06 m.t. of coal during that year.